

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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**CHARITY**

## Lions Club Christmas list grows

*Donations needed to help 50% more families*

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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It's an unfortunate sign of the times.

In four years, the number of Christmas baskets given to families through the Stouffville Lions Club project has risen by about 50 per cent.

"In the last couple of years, the economy has played a big part of it (and) we have a lot more families in town," said Clare Palmer, chairperson of the Lions Club of Stouffville's Christmas basket project.

Last year, 115 boxes of toys were given to local families in need of assistance. This year, Mr. Palmer anticipates that number to be around 140.

Part of that increase can be attributed to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank no longer handing out toys with their Christmas hampers.

"They were abused," said Marion Wells, co-ordinator of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank of the toys and gift cards they would give to people.

Every year, small trucks, cars and dolls fill the boxes for young children, but Mr. Palmer is hoping more books and board games will be donated this year.

"If the person is really in need,

See **GIFT**, page 11.

## NOT-SO-SILENT KNIGHT



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Lloyd Knight sings Christmas carols at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce holiday luncheon at Willow Springs Winery Thursday.

## Worker shortage looms in York

BY DAVID FLEISCHER  
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With the wave of retiring baby boomers starting to come ashore, York Region is working with employers to keep the economy above water.

"Everybody's in the same boat," Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) human resources manager Janet Williams said.

"There are very few organizations that don't have this as an issue."

The aging population is a double-edged sword for CHATS, which employs older workers and provides services to senior citizens.

Ms Williams has participated in a series of workshops hosted by the region as part of an 18-month study of the economic impact of an aging workforce.

Adding to the problem, the

region is home to a relatively high percentage of baby boomers and soon-to-be retirees.

About 100,000 to 150,000 York Region baby boomers are expected to retire in the next 10 years. York's 92,000 seniors accounted for 10 per cent of the population in 2006.

However, by 2031, the region projects 312,000 seniors, about 22

See **RETIREMENT**, page 4.

## Convention, sports centres in plans: Mayor

Plans have been presented to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville for a convention centre, indoor sports facilities, Main Street stores and a development in Gormley.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson broke the news during a Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce luncheon Thursday, promising more details when town council is installed for its four-year term Tuesday night.

**HO, HO, HO! SEE YOU AT THE STOUFFVILLE KINSMEN SANTA CLAUS PARADE TODAY AT 2 P.M.**

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